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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/070,400

03/01/2002

Seiji Nishikawa

9683/110

6941

757 7590 01/18/2007
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CHICAGO, IL 60610

EXAMINER

CHOI, PETER H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3623

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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30 DAYS

01/18/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment

1. The reply filed on November 2, 2006 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):

Applicant has cancelled all previously pending claims 1-16 (Invention I), which were directed towards the details of scheduling (and displaying said schedule) of business performers.

Applicant added new claims 17-28, which are directed toward determining a circulation route of an application within an organization.

Newly submitted claims 17-28 (Invention II) are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

2. Inventions I are II related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct if they do not overlap in scope and are not obvious variants, and if it is shown that at least one subcombination is separately usable. In the instant case, subcombination I is directed towards scheduling (and displaying said schedule) of business performers, whereas subcombination II has separate utility such as determining a circulation route of an application within an organization. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

3. Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and because the inventions require a different field of search (the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, and vice-versa), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper (see MPEP § 808.02).

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 17-28 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Consequently, no claims are pending for examination; therefore, the present amendment is deemed to be non-responsive. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272 6971. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

January 12, 2007


TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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